



Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice

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NEWS BULLETIN

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DARON BROWN NAMED JETSON DIRECTOR

Interim Deputy Secretary Mary L. Livers has named Daron P. Brown to the position of Director of Jetson Center for Youth. Deputy Director Brown has served as Acting Director for several months until being confirmed in the position today.

"I have utmost confidence in Daron's ability to lead Jetson in the right direction – the direction that ensures successful outcomes for the youth in our care," said Dr. Livers. "We have seen many positive changes at Jetson over the past few months, due to the leadership that Director Brown has consistently demonstrated. Under his direction Jetson will continue to thrive and the ultimate beneficiaries will be our youth."

Director Brown has been with Jetson for 10 years, arriving at Jetson in November 1998 as a captain with eight years' experience from the adult system. He began his career as a security cadet, coming up through the ranks as lieutenant, captain, major, lt. colonel, system warden, system director, deputy director and finally, director of the facility.

A graduate of West Feliciana High School, Director Brown attended University of Phoenix and has plans to continue to pursue his degree.

"I bring a positive attitude to my work," Director Brown said. "I have a democratic leadership style and I believe in involving staff in day-to-day decision making, and in leading by example. People work better when they have a sense of ownership in their job. Teamwork is the key element to making the process work."

"We must offer every kid in our care the best service we can deliver," Director Brown continued. "Our goal is for our kids to become productive citizens when they get out. I am all about taking care of our kids."

In 1990 when Daron Brown went to work, he set a goal for himself to someday become director of a facility. "If I made rank every four years, I would reach that goal in 24 years," he said. "I did it six

years earlier than my goal. I'm very goal-oriented and I set expectations and goals for myself," he added.

"When we write down our goals and look at them every day, we can overcome obstacles and the naysayers," Director Brown said. "When things are tough, looking at your written goals helps you get back on track, it helps with your career to work toward your goals."

"One of my strengths is being able to work with people in different disciplines," Director Brown said. "I help bring the disciplines together: security, LSU, social workers, etc. I can work with people above and below me."

The key he said, is teamwork. "We're all a family," Director Brown said. "Everyone who works for OJJ is part of the family no matter what office they work in."

"My focus is to change the way people look at Jetson," Director Brown said. "We are going to make it one of the best secure facilities in the state and with hard work, we can make that happen. If we focus and just get the job done, and keep the staff working as a team, that will quiet the critics."

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